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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Eight Co-operative Motor Transport Societies intended for ex-servicemen and one Co-operative Motor Transport Society intended for civilians undertake bus transport."

(An hon. Member stood up in his seat to put a supplementary question.)

MR. SPEAKER :—" I will have to cover the rest of the questions in another five minutes. I pass on to the next question."

Metalling of village roads in Pudukkottai

* 805 Q.—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the policy of giving priority to the metalling of village roads where the population of the village is over 500 and where the roads lie within a distance of 2 miles from the nearest main road, has been implemented in Pudukkottai division for works executed under aid from the Central Road Fund?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" There is no such policy as is referred to in the question. Certain works of metalling village roads in the Pudukkottai division of Tiruchirappalli district were sanctioned as a measure of unemployment relief."

Afforestation work in Pudukkottai

* 806 Q.—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether assessed waste lands in Survey Nos. 172, 173, 180, 197-2 and 201-A, totalling 80 acres adjacent to Sundarapatti village in Palavayal vattam of Pudukkottai division, Tiruchirappalli district, were under the Revenue Department of the former Pudukkottai State;

(b) whether these lands were assigned to anyone by the Revenue Department of the former Pudukkottai State Government;

(c) if so, when and to whom;

(d) whether the Forest department officials of Tiruchirappalli district took over these plots of lands for forest regeneration work;

(e) when they did so, and the expenditure on their afforestation so far;

(f) whether Sundarapatti villagers have appealed to the Sub-Collector, Pudukkottai and Collector of Tiruchirappalli against this taking over of the lands by the Forest department officials; and

(g) if so, the action taken by the authorities on the petitions to safeguard the communal needs of the Sundarapatti villagers?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) No.

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" (c) Does not arise.

" (d) Yes.

" (e) The plots were taken over by the Forest department on 25th May 1953. An expenditure of Rs. 1,873–7–6 has so far been incurred on the afforestation work in this area.

" (f) Yes.

" (g) The communal needs of the Sundarapatti villagers have been safeguarded by the authorities concerned, by limiting the area required for forest regeneration to the minimum extent possible."

Number of schools in the State

* 807 Q.—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the number of high schools, higher elementary schools and elementary schools in Madras State during 1953–54?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Eight hundred and forty-one High schools, 118 Middle schools, 2,338 Higher Elementary schools and 19,072 Lower Elementary schools."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" அடுத்த ஆண்டில் திறப்பதற்கு அரசாங்கத்தின் ஆலோசனையில் இருக்கக்கூடிய உயர்தரப் பள்ளிகள் எத்தனை ?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" சர்க்கார் உயர்தரப் பள்ளிகள் ஆரம்பிப்பதாக உத்தேசம் இல்லை."

House-sites for Harijans

* 808 Q.—

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member Sri M. Palanimuthu is not in his place. The question and answer will be printed in the proceedings."

SRI M. PALANIMUTHU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state whether the Harijans of Kalanivasal and Tiruvalandurai village of Perambalur taluk applied for assignment of house-sites and if so, the action taken on their applications?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Yes. Land acquisition proceedings were initiated for the grant of house-sites to the Harijans in Tiruvalandurai village. Land will soon be taken possession of and assigned to the Harijans for house-sites. The proposal to acquire land for Harijans of Kalanivasal, hamlet of Ogalur village, is in the preliminary stage. The matter is receiving attention of the Collector."

Employees' Provident Fund Act

* 809 Q.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the number of industries that come within the scope of the Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952, in this State?